

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 17 to 31 without prejudice and add the following new claims 32 to 42:

Claims 1 to 10. (canceled)

11. (withdrawn) A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container being made by a method comprising thermal processing of a hollow glass body, wherein an overpressure is provided in an interior of said hollow glass body during said thermal processing.

12. (withdrawn) The glass container as defined in claim 11, wherein said hollow glass body is a glass tube (2).

13. (withdrawn) The glass container as defined in claim 11, having an alkali release from an inner surface thereof of at most 70 percent of an alkali release from an inner surface of another container made by said method comprising said thermal processing except that said overpressure was not provided.

14. (withdrawn) A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container being made by a method comprising the steps of:

a) thermally cutting a glass tube to length;

b) thermally opening a bottom formed on the glass tube during the cutting to length; and

c) at the same time as the thermally opening of step b), providing an overpressure in an interior of said glass tube.

15. (withdrawn) The glass container as defined in claim 11, having an alkali release from an inner surface thereof of at most 70 percent of an alkali release from an inner surface of another container made by said method comprising said thermal processing except that said overpressure was not provided.

16. (withdrawn) A glass container, especially for medicinal applications, said glass container having a sodium oxide release from an interior surface thereof of at most about 2.0 mg/l of sodium oxide.

Claims 17 to 31. (canceled)

32. (new) A method of making a small glass container, said method comprising the steps of:

a) clamping a hollow glass tube with an open upper end and an inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing at least one alkali compound during thermal processing of the hollow glass tube;

b) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube to length, thereby forming a closed bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a);

c) thermally opening said closed bottom of said hollow glass tube by heating said closed bottom; and

d) partially closing said hollow glass tube at said open upper end by a stopper with a through-going opening so that an overpressure is produced by constricting a gas flow path through said open upper end during said thermal processing while keeping said open upper end sufficiently open so that an excessive overpressure that would otherwise damage the glass tube is not produced;

whereby contamination of said inner surface by said at least one alkali compound during said thermal processing is at least reduced.

33. (new) The method as defined in claim 32, wherein said at least one alkali compound evaporates during said thermal processing and said thermal processing takes place by heating with flames and/or with jet flames.

34. (new) The method as defined in claim 32, further comprising forming a container mouth at said bottom of said hollow glass tube.

35. (new) The method as defined in claim 32, wherein said small glass container is a bottle or an ampoule.

36. (new) A method of making a small glass container, said method comprising the steps of:

a) clamping a hollow glass tube with an open upper end and an inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing at least one alkali compound during thermal processing of the hollow glass tube;

b) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube to length, thereby forming a closed bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a);

c) thermally opening said closed bottom of said hollow glass tube by heating said closed bottom; and

d) blowing gas into the hollow glass tube through said open upper end of said hollow glass tube so that an overpressure is produced during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube;

so that contamination of said inner surface of said hollow glass tube with said at least one alkali compound is at least reduced.

37. (new) The method as defined in claim 36, wherein said at least one alkali compound evaporates during said thermal processing and said thermal processing takes place by heating with flames and/or with jet flames.

38. (new) The method as defined in claim 36, further comprising forming a container mouth at said bottom of said hollow glass tube.

39. (new) The method as defined in claim 36, wherein said small glass container is a bottle or an ampoule.

40. (new) A method of at least reducing contamination of an inner surface of a hollow glass tube by deposition of at least one alkali compound during thermal processing, said hollow glass tube having an open upper end and an inner surface, said method comprising the steps of:

a) clamping said hollow glass tube with said open upper end and said inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing said at least one alkali compound from said inner surface during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube; and

b) partially closing said hollow glass tube at said open upper end by a stopper with a through-going opening so that an overpressure is produced by constricting a gas flow path through said open upper end during said thermal processing while keeping said open upper end sufficiently open so that an excessive overpressure that would otherwise damage the glass tube is not produced;

whereby said contamination of said inner surface of said hollow glass tube by deposition of said at least one alkali compound during said thermal processing is at least reduced because of said overpressure produced in said hollow glass tube.

41. (new) The method as defined in claim 40, further comprising thermally cutting said hollow glass tube to length, thereby forming a closed bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation and then thermally opening said closed bottom of said hollow glass tube by heating said closed bottom.

42. (new) A method of at least reducing contamination of an inner surface of a hollow glass tube by at least one alkali compound during thermal processing, said hollow glass tube having an open upper end and an inner surface, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) clamping said hollow glass tube with said open upper end and said inner surface in a vertical orientation, said hollow glass tube releasing said at least one alkali compound from said inner surface during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube;

- b) thermally cutting said hollow glass tube to length, thereby forming a closed bottom of said hollow glass tube clamped in said vertical orientation in step a);

- c) thermally opening said closed bottom of said hollow glass tube by heating said closed bottom; and

- d) producing an overpressure in said hollow glass tube by blowing gas into the hollow glass tube through said open upper end of said hollow glass tube during said thermal processing of said hollow glass tube;

so that contamination of said inner surface of said hollow glass tube with said at least one alkali compound is at least reduced because of the overpressure produced in said hollow glass tube.